

**Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health**

**Mental Health Liaisons**

A Partnership Between Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health  
March 23, 2017

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**Behavioral Health Collaboration with Criminal Justice**

- Key partnerships from mid 1990's
  - Santa Cruz County Probation: dedicated DPO assigned to Mental Health
  - City of Santa Cruz: dedicated Mental Health "Downtown Outreach Worker"
- Development of FACT model team late 1990's
  - Maintaining Ongoing Stability through Treatment (MOST)
  - Several rounds of State MIOCR grant funding
- Mentally Ill Offender Task Force in 2012
  - Local stakeholders inclusive of elected officials, department heads, various law enforcement chiefs
  - Resulting in expanded collaboration and programming
  - Santa Cruz County Behavioral Health Forensic Continuum was developed

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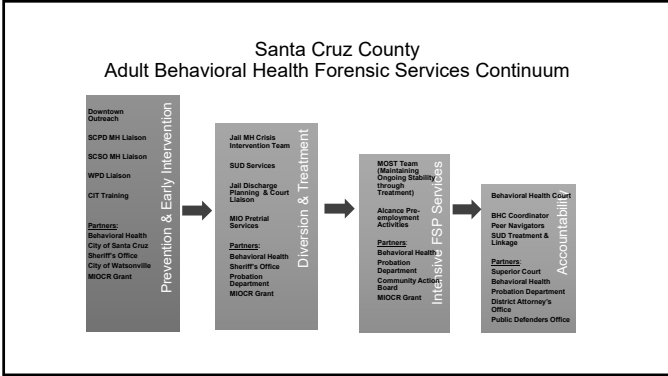
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**Prevention & Early Intervention**

- Santa Cruz City Downtown Outreach Worker
- Santa Cruz Police Department Mental Health Liaison
- Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office Mental Health Liaison
- Watsonville Police Department Mental Health Liaison

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**Behavioral Health/Law Enforcement Collaboration**

- Positions are co-funded by Santa Cruz Behavioral Health and each jurisdiction
- Clear and mutually negotiated Memorandum of Understanding with specific expectations
- Data requirements of delivered services
- Ability to provide service model best suited to jurisdiction

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**Santa Cruz Police Department Mental Health Liaison**

- Position funded by the City of Santa Cruz and County Behavioral Health
- Embedded with SCPD, time divided between Downtown, Patrol and Parks
- Responds with officers to service calls with potential mental health issues
- Provides 5150 assessments, crisis assessment, crisis intervention & linkage to services

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**SCPD Mental Health Liaison - continued**

- In addition to the direct services, the MHL serves as an in-house trainer and consultant
- In vivo education to SCPD on mental health issues and crisis intervention
- Training to community members and partners
- Member of Crisis Intervention Training Development Task Force & CIT Trainer

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**SCPD Perspective**

- Community Policing Model
- Co-responder model: Mental Health Clinician partnered with patrol officer
- Impacts of ongoing, on-site education and consultation, i.e. roll call
- MHL allows for separation between enforcement and social service interventions, while promoting collaboration and partnership
- MHL allows for "normalizing" the contact environment to focus on social service intervention

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**SCPD MHL Data**

| <u>Contacts:</u>      | <u>CY2015</u> | <u>CY2016</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Male                  | 995           | 857           |
| Female                | 354           | 284           |
| MH Related            | 1004          | 1091          |
| SUD Related           | 1018          | 1033          |
| <b>Total Contacts</b> | <b>1349</b>   | <b>1145</b>   |

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**SCPD MHL Data**

| <u>Calls for 5150 Assessment</u>      | <u>CY2015</u> | <u>CY2016</u> |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 5150 Assessments                      | 691           | 688           |
| 5150 Holds                            | 46            | 89            |
| <br>                                  |               |               |
| <u>Linkage to Services/Referrals:</u> | <u>CY2015</u> | <u>CY2016</u> |
| Probation                             | 89            | 63            |
| Mental Health Services                | 630           | 605           |
| Medical Services                      | 353           | 525           |
| SUD Services                          | 458           | 311           |
| Shelter                               | 67            | 94            |
| County of Origin                      | 111           | 59            |
| Other Community Resources             | 389           | 516           |
| <b>Total Linkage &amp; Referrals</b>  | <b>2097</b>   | <b>2173</b>   |

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**SCPD Mental Health Liaison**  
 Co-response with SCPD Crisis Negotiation Team

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**Santa Cruz Sheriff's Office MHL**

- Position funded by the Sheriff's Office and County Behavioral Health
- Assigned and housed at SCSO Headquarters 40 hours per week
- Responds with deputies to service calls with potential mental health issues and provides follow-up independently in field
- Provides 5150 assessments, crisis assessment, crisis intervention & linkage to services
- Provides training, education and consultation to SCSO deputies
- Chair of CIT Development Task Force, CIT Trainer & CIT Oversight Committee

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**SCSO Mental Health Liaison**  
 Co-response in field with SCSO Deputy

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**SCSO Mental Health Liaison**  
 Co-response with Crisis Negotiation Team

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**Watsonville Police Department MHL**  
**"CARE Team"** (Crisis Assessment, Response, Engagement)

- Position funded by the City of Watsonville & County Behavioral Health
- Embedded with WPD 40 hours per week, with a dedicated officer  
 – Consistent with Memphis Model co-responder team
- Responds to service calls with potential mental health issues, providing 5150 assessments, crisis assessment, crisis intervention & linkage to services
- Provides training, education and consultation with WPD
- Member of CIT Development Task Force & CIT trainer
- Bilingual/bicultural clinician to provide culturally appropriate services for jurisdiction

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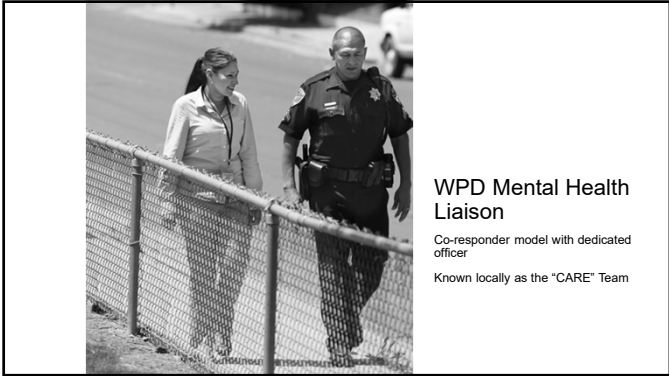
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**MHL Video**

- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B9JCqo0ll6qYQzUyNWNsZXJHdHc/view?usp=sharing>

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**MHL Program – Lessons Learned**

- Confidentiality issues to attend to
- Safety for MHL
- Crisis Negotiation Team participation & training
- Unanticipated grave outcomes – vicarious trauma
  - Contracted critical incident stress management service
- LE & MH domains intertwined – interface of services & personalities
- Community access to services
  - Expectation
  - Notoriety
- 5150 Certification Training for all sworn LE officers in the County

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Collaboration – The Process

- 1. How to identify community issue for collaboration
  - Law Enforcement encounters with mental health consumers and crisis
- 2. Identify stakeholders affected
  - Law enforcement, behavioral health, communities at large, peers and family members
- 3. Conduct thorough analysis of need, resources and gaps
  - Number of calls for service for mental health related needs, number of 5150s, jail bookings with mental health issues
- 4. Convene stakeholders
- 5. Collaboratively develop performance measures
- 6. Regular accountability
  - Data review and reports

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Questions?

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